

REMARKS

Summary of the Official Action

Claims 55-57 and 59-132 are pending in the present Application. In the Official Action, the Examiner has entered a restriction requirement as follows:

Group I: Claims 55-57 and 59-130 drawn to the apparatus, classified in class 422, subclass 192.

Group II: Claims 131-132, drawn to a method, classified in class 48, subclass 197R.

After selecting between Groups I and II, a further restriction was indicated. The Examiner has further restricted the application between Species A-J as shown below.

Species A, as shown in Figs. 1-2, wherein the partial oxidation vessel is within the first reaction zone;

Species B, as shown in Figs. 1-2, wherein the partial oxidation vessel is outside the reactor;

Species C, as shown in Fig. 4, wherein the partial oxidation vessel is within the first reaction zone;

Species D, as shown in Fig. 4, wherein the partial oxidation vessel is outside the reactor;

Species E, as shown in Fig. 5, wherein the partial oxidation vessel is within the first reaction zone;

Species F, as shown in Fig. 5, wherein the partial oxidation vessel is outside the reactor;

Species G, as shown in Fig. 6, wherein the partial oxidation vessel is within the first reaction zone;

Species H, as shown in Fig. 6, wherein the partial oxidation vessel is outside the reactor;

Species I, as shown in Fig. 7, wherein the partial oxidation vessel is within the first reaction zone;

Species J, as shown in Fig. 7, wherein the partial oxidation vessel is outside the reactor.

Provisional Election

The Restriction Requirement advises Applicants that a response requires the identification of an elected species and a listing of all claims readable thereon. The portion of the Restriction Requirement related to Species A-J does not reference particular claims. Applicants in this response have attempted to identify each of the claims readable on the elected species. If the Examiner does not concur with Applicants' determinations, notice to that effect is requested.

Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the claims of Group I, Species A. Claim 55-57, 59-79, 82-84, 86-92, 97-103, 106-109, 110-116, and 121-128 are readable on the elected species.

The provisional election of Group I, Species A, is not intended to limit the scope of the elected claims in any manner. Figs. 1 and 2 are not the only embodiments covered by the claims contained in this provisional election. Numerous modifications to the embodiments of Figs. 1 and 2 which are within the scope of the elected claims immediately come to mind. The scope of the claims in the provisionally elected species should not be construed as limited in any way by this election.

Generic Claims

Claims 80-81, 85, 93-96, 104-105, 109, 117-120, and 129-130 do not fall within the elected species. However, Applicants submit each of these claims ultimately depends upon a generic claim. Claims 55 and 63 are the generic claims from which each of these claims ultimately depend.

Claims 55 and 63 are generic because they include no material element additional to those recited in the species claims, as they are the species claims. Additionally, each of the generic claims comprehend within its confines the organization covered in each of the other species.

In the event that generic claims 55 and 63 are allowed, Applicants respectfully request that claims 80-81, 85, 93-96, 104-105, 109, 117-120, and 129-130 be allowed because they depend therefrom, and include each of the limitations thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

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